

The Office Action requires Applicants to select one of the following allegedly patentably distinct inventions for examination:

Group I:      Claims 1-12, drawn to a composition, classified in class 106, subclass 31.01.

Group II:      Claims 13-16, drawn to a method of coating, classified in class 427, subclass 384.

(Office Action at 2). According to the Office Action, the two groups of inventions are allegedly distinct because “the composition as claimed can be used in a materially different process, such as CVD” (presumably Chemical Vapor Deposition) (Id.). Applicants respectfully traverse this election requirement as the Office Action has not met its burden to provide reasons and/or examples to support such conclusions.

Indeed, it is well-established that the examiner must provide reasons and/or examples to support conclusions when issuing a restriction requirement. MPEP § 803. The Office Action has provided *no* evidence or technical reasoning to support the conclusion that Groups I and II allegedly represent two independent and distinct inventions. The only statement provided by the Office Action was the conclusory statement that “the composition as claimed can be used in a materially different process, such as CVD” (Office Action at 2). Significantly, however, the Office Action has provided *no* reasons or examples in support of the assertion that the claimed compositions could be used in a “materially different process such as CVD” (Id.). Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is requested respectfully.

Although Applicants submit respectfully that the inventions of Groups I and II are not independent and distinct, in an attempt to advance the prosecution of this application to

allowance, Applicants select Group I, encompassing claims 1-12. Applicants, however, reserve the right to prosecute claims 13-16 (Group II) in a future divisional patent application.

The Office Action has also required Applicants to identify one species from each of A (fluorocarbon surface tension-reducing agents) and B (the liquid carrier) for examination. Although Applicants disagree respectfully with this requirement, Applicants select the following species for the sole purpose of advancing prosecution of the above-identified patent application:

	<b>Elected Species</b>
fluorocarbon surface tension-reducing agent	1,1,1,3,3-pentafluoropropane
liquid carrier	2,2,3,3-tetrafluoropropanol

Such species are covered by at least, for example, claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 8. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute remaining species within the scope of the claims in a future divisional patent application.

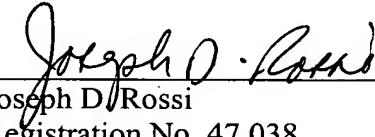
Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a complete and full response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, an early and favorable reconsideration of the rejections and an early and favorable allowance of all of pending claims are requested respectfully.

In the event any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is requested to call he undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is authorized hereby to charge any fees or credit any overpayment associated with this Reply (copy enclosed) to Deposit Account Number 19-5425.

Respectfully submitted,  
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